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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 94, Number 7

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL

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Nashville, Tennessee

April 6, 1995

State convention executive director Don Moore announces retirement

Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention since 1982, has announced his plans to retire by Feb. 29, 1996.

"There are no subtle, hidden reasons for me to make this decision," Moore told the ABSC Executive Board's operating committee March 30. "To the best of my discernment, I am acting in obedience to God's leading."

During Moore's tenure as executive director, membership in Arkansas Baptist churches has increased almost 50,000 while annual gifts through the Cooperative Program have grown by more than \$6 million. "Arkansas Baptists have been more to me than I could have ever asked," Moore remarked. "They will have my undying love and appreciation."



Home Mission Board honors Petty as 1995 Interfaith Witness Coordinator

Pete Petty, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, has been honored as the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's 1995 Interfaith Witness Coordinator of the Year. Petty, who initially received the award earlier this year during the Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference, was officially recognized during a March 18 meeting of state IFW coordinators in Atlanta.

Ken James, midwest regional coordinator for the HMB's interfaith witness department, said the decision to present the award to Petty came from a consensus of IFW field missionaries and department personnel. "We take into consideration their recent activities but, especially in Pete's case, we took the many, many years he has been state coordinator."

James added that when he nominated Petty for the honor, "others in the department were amazed that Pete had not already received it because he is so active in the department."

James said one of Petty's "boldest strokes" leading to his nomination was a five-day, 12-association tour in Arkansas to promote the IFW program.

Petty, who has been active in IFW efforts for 18 years, noted, "This is one of those awards where there are several other people who deserve it. But it means that the Home Mission Board has recognized that I have been out on the cutting edge of interfaith witness through the years."

"I don't think it was (awarded) for what I did last year, but for what I've done for 18 years," he added.

Noting that the IFW program is "two-fold," Petty explained, "First, it is designed to share with Baptists in our churches about the other faith groups and religious

pluralism of America. And it shares with them the need to be informed; to share with adults what other faiths that are actively pursuing their members believe.

"Second," he said, "it promotes a positive Christian witness to folks in those groups."

Petty said his duties of an interfaith witness coordinator include scheduling and engaging in awareness conferences about other faith groups as well as enlisting others to teach.

Petty noted that his involvement with IFW preceded his work as a state missionary. "I've been involved in IFW even before I came to work at the state convention," he said. "I took my first IFW class in 1976 while I was director of missions for Washington-Madison Association."

James also cited Petty's commitment to certification as being instrumental in his selection for the award. "One of things that causes Pete to stand out is that not all of our state personnel have taken the time themselves to be certified."

In addition to serving as state IFW coordinator, Petty is certified to teach classes about Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons and the New Age movement. He also has completed studies in Roman Catholicism and Islam.

"This is a plus," Petty said of his training. "Not only do I advocate other people having education so they can witness, but the idea is that I'm also certified."

Demonstrating the personal commitment and concern that led to his most recent recognition, Petty added, "I wish there were a way get people to understand the importance of interfaith witnessing with the pluralism of these religious groups in America."

Cover Story



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Don Moore, Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director since 1982, announced March 30 that he plans to retire by Feb. 29, 1996. "I covet your prayers for God's clear direction and protection of my life and ministry," Moore told state Baptist leaders.

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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Executive director Don Moore to retire

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention since 1982, has announced his plans to retire by Feb. 29, 1996. Moore made the announcement March 30 to the ABCS Executive Board operating committee which will serve as the search committee for his successor.

"It has been an unbelievable blessing to have served the Arkansas Baptist family during this period in our history," Moore said in a prepared statement. "The measure of trust and support I have been given defies explanation except for the grace of God.

"My honest opinion is that God is finishing the work He called me to do and I must be prepared to move into the next field of service to which He calls me," Moore added. "To the best of my discernment, I am acting in obedience to His leading."

Acknowledging that his future ministry options are "totally unknown to me," Moore asked Arkansas Baptists to pray "for God's clear direction and protection of my life and ministry. Nothing about retirement calls for me to be free from His yoke."

Moore, who will be 62 in November, said a February retirement date will provide the search committee and Executive Board the possibility of securing his successor by the end of the year. That timetable would allow up to two months of transition for a new executive director prior to Moore's retirement.

During Moore's tenure as executive director, membership in Arkansas Baptist churches has increased almost 50,000 while annual gifts through the Cooperative Program have grown by more than \$6 million.

Honored by Arkansas Baptists in 1992 for his 40th anniversary in the ministry, Moore received a plaque affirming "30 years of faithful and loving ministry as a pastor, leader and servant in Southern Baptist churches and 10 years of visionary leadership and ministry as executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention."

During an *Arkansas Baptist News-magazine* interview following that recognition, Moore said highlights of his statewide ministry included sponsoring the 1989 Foreign Mission Board commissioning service in Little Rock and involvement in overseas missions partnerships in Brazil and Guatemala. Continuing to build on the success of those efforts, Moore has helped coordinate plans for two similar projects — the current

missions partnership with the European Baptist Convention and a 1997 FMB commissioning service to be held in the state.

Moore said other highlights have included the development of an ongoing church planting plan, successful fundraising efforts for construction and renovation projects at Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs and the establishment of the church leadership support department to aid pastors, church staff members and their families.

Future priorities Moore has helped initiate include Arkansas Baptists' five-year "Arkansas Awakening" ministry emphasis for 1996-2000 as well as plans for the state convention's 150th anniversary celebration in 1998.

"If Arkansas Baptists will stay focused on the main issues of reaching the lost, starting and developing churches and getting the gospel out to all the world, the blessing of God will be upon us."

—Don Moore
ABCs executive director

"Everything about this year and the next five years should inspire us to increasing excitement and zeal," Moore declared. "Our goals are totally compatible with God's revealed will. We can press on with the greatest of vigor, expecting His full blessing upon us."

"It will be a long time before Arkansas Baptists will be able to measure the depth of Don Moore's service," remarked former state convention president William H. "Buddy" Sutton. "More than once we have said and will continue to say, 'Thank you, Lord, for Don Moore.'"

Julia Ketter, executive director of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union, noted that Moore's "genuine love and concern for people have been demonstrated again and again not only to the staff, but throughout the state and even beyond.... He has the world on his heart and challenges individuals and churches to do the same as together we seek to carry out the Great Commission."

Moore, a former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Prior to his ministry as executive director, Moore served 12 years as pastor

of Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith. He previously was pastor of Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro, Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans, Elliott Church in Camden and Corum (Okla.) Church. He also was minister of music and youth at First Church, Smackover, while in college.

Other denominational service has included serving as Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference president and vice chairman of the Ouachita Baptist University board of trustees as well as a member of the ABCS Executive Board, a trustee of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Committees.

Reflecting on his years of service, Moore noted, "I feel good that we have maintained a strong fellowship within the Baptist family in Arkansas and that we have been able to increase missions support as much as we have."

Looking toward the future, he added, "I can't help but have some good hopes but I think the tendency toward independent churches will create some difficult times. I feel that 98 percent of our churches desperately need the assistance the state convention can give and that we need to be careful to not structure denominational life around the few megachurches that are self-contained.

"Educationally, missiologically and ecclesiastically, the state convention will remain a viable entity in Kingdom work in Arkansas," Moore predicted. "If Arkansas Baptists will stay focused on the main issues of reaching the lost, starting and developing churches and getting the gospel out to all the world, the blessing of God will be upon us."

Operating committee chairman Billy Kite, director of missions for Ashley Association, will chair the search committee seeking Moore's successor. Other search committee members are Dick Finley, a member of Lake Hamilton Church in Hot Springs; Bob Floyd, a member of Concord Church, Van Buren; Rich Kline, pastor of Central Church, Magnolia; Larry Loggins, pastor of Friendship Church, Clinton; Jere Mitchell, pastor of First Church, Fayetteville; Ken Overton, pastor of First Church, Marked Tree; Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs; Ben Rowell, pastor of First Church, Rogers; and Mitch Tapson, pastor of Mt. Carmel Church, Cabot.

Nominations for the position of executive director may be mailed to operating committee chairman Billy Kite at P.O. Box 1184, Crossett, AR 71635 or P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. Kite requested that full biographical sketches be included with each nomination.

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCs Executive Director

It is true that judgment will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, as the scripture says. At the judgment seat the Christian's works will be made manifest as to what "sort" they are (1 Cor. 3:16). The revelation will be of works done purely in the name of Jesus and for the sake of His kingdom. And, according to scripture, everyone will be rewarded appropriately.

The truths stated above are a great comfort to those who may receive so little recognition and appreciation in this life. But I have a question. Should a person have to wait until he or she passes on before being appreciated and rewarded for what they have done in this life?

The heavenly Father complimented His Son for having done what pleased Him. Jesus was liberal in His commendation of Mary for giving up her burial ointment to anoint His body. Paul expressed appreciation for various individuals who had supported him in his ministry.

The Bible instructs us to render unto every person their due, with honor mentioned as an appropriate way. It also instructs the church to compensate people who perform ministries to the church for the "laborer is worthy of his hire."

No, secretaries should not have to die and go to heaven to find out how vital their efforts are. God's voice should not be the first they hear say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

A note in the church paper, a corsage presented in the worship service; designating a day to honor one who has served a number of years; a gift certificate; a free trip to a week of their choosing for renewal at Ridgecrest or Glorieta; a day off on their birthday; or a dinner honoring the secretary. These are a few ideas about how you could say thanks to a deserving helper in your church, agency, institution or even the Baptist Building. A little more consideration in scheduling work and saying "thank you" might mean as much as anything. However you want to say it, let's express our appreciation for a great group of people who make it possible for the rest of us to function as well as we do.

MARYAN WHITLOW

Woman's Viewpoint

Blessings



I just naturally assumed that everyone was reared as I was. It has just been within the last couple of years that I realized how blessed I have been.

I was born into a family that consisted not only of a loving mother and father, but an extended family as well. I was loved by brothers, grandparents, aunts and uncles. My parents were actively involved in the activities of the church. I was taken to church and taught to love God. I lived in a nice home, had nice clothes and was expected to make the honor roll and behave as a young lady or give an account to the entire family. My parents were also interested in my school activities; I was expected to get an education. It just didn't dawn on me until a couple of years ago that I had lived in a "castle" and was cared for by a "king" and "queen." I truly have been blessed.

The friends that I "ran" with, as my grandmother used to say, were like me. They also were reared in Christian homes and we were taught and expected to act as Christians. Together

we were able to resist so many temptations. I have been blessed.

I have been a part of many wonderful schools where my principals and co-workers have helped make teaching so rewarding. One of the greatest blessings has been to see so many of my students excel to their maximum potential.

I have a wonderful husband who loves me and lifts me up daily before the Lord. We have been encouraged and loved by our church members; serving the Lord together has been fun, exciting and rewarding. I have been blessed.

The greatest blessing of all is knowing the King of all Kings. He loves, protects, guides and comforts me. He expects and requires much of me. A mansion has been prepared just for me. I am a child of the King of which there is no greater blessing. I am blessed.

Maryan Whitlow is the wife of Sam Whitlow, pastor of Harmony Church in El Dorado. She teaches fifth grade at Murrell Heights Elementary School in El Dorado.

Personal perspectives

"We are called to be servants, letting God use us in transforming the world."

—Dorcas Camacho Byrd,
Southern Baptist home missionary to Houston, Texas

"Waiting on the Lord means praying and trusting every hour, every day to God. Waiting on the Lord brings strength and courage."

—Debbie Moore, Southern Baptist foreign missionary to Liberia

"It is critical that the gospel be taken to everyone in our state but we must not stop there. We must also keep our world vision."

—Jimmy Barrentine, ABCS missions department director

"Only God can rehabilitate the soul....It is going to be up to the church to catch the vision of the mission field in the prisons."

—Don Yancey, Arkansas Department of Corrections chaplain

Some things never change

Change is inevitable — and Baptist life is no exception. Current changes on the national level range from the massive convention restructuring proposals facing Southern Baptist messengers to the turmoil unfolding at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. On the state level, recent changes include the election of David Perry as executive director of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries and the March 21 resignation of Williams Baptist College president Gary Huckabee.

Perhaps the most dramatic change facing Arkansas Baptists in the immediate future involves last week's retirement announcement by state convention executive director Don Moore. Dr. Moore, who has served as executive director since 1982, told the ABSBC Executive Board operating committee that he plans to retire no later than February 1996.

Dr. Moore's influence and impact on Arkansas Baptist ministry since 1982 is immense. He has been influential in helping plan and promote missions partnerships in Brazil, Guatemala, Europe and Iowa. He has led efforts to provide ministry in the areas of church planting, church leadership support, pastors' retreats, pastor/staff orientation, financial assistance to terminated ministers and other people-focused ministries.

At the same time, he has championed Cooperative Program support, fund-raising efforts for facilities at Arkansas Baptist Assembly and statewide anti-gambling campaigns.

God sustains amid pain

Several years ago our son, Andrew, bought a plaque. It says, "Lord, help me to accept the things I may not understand." Since his death these words have become our prayer. We don't understand why he died so young — with such potential for the future. But in the midst of our pain and confusion, God again and again shows us His love. He sustains, encourages and provides for our needs.

We've returned to the work God has called us to do in Panama. Bittersweet memories remain; the pain isn't eased quickly. But our colleagues from the Foreign Mission Board, fellow missionaries and friends in the U.S. and Panama have encouraged us. A simple "thanks" isn't sufficient to express our gratitude.

How can we forget the response of fellow missionaries in the hours after this tragedy? They stood with us during the search for Andrew's body and then did

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

Looking toward the future, he has been actively involved in helping shape Arkansas Baptists' "Arkansas Awakening" ministry emphasis through the year 2000 as well as helping arrange for a Foreign Mission Board commissioning service scheduled in the state for 1997 and the state convention's 150th anniversary celebration in 1998.

Rather than coasting toward retirement, Dr. Moore obviously is going to go out the same way he came in — totally committed to doing everything in his power, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, to advance God's mission and ministry among Arkansas Baptists.

"I want the years following my departure to be marked with unprecedented progress," Dr. Moore told state Baptist leaders. "Everything about this year and the next five years should inspire us all to increasing excitement and zeal."

Even amid the changes inherent in a time of transition to new leadership,

Arkansas Baptists can be assured that some things never change. Twelve and a half years ago, when search committee chairman Kerry Powell recommended Don Moore as executive director, he described Moore as a man "who loves Jesus," who "preaches the Word" and "who God has groomed for the task."

The same words that were spoken in 1982 are still true in 1995 and beyond. Don Moore is known widely as a dedicated servant of God. His colleagues use such words as "zeal," "strength," "integrity," "compassion" and "vision" to describe his life and ministry.

ABSBC associate executive director Jimmie Sheffield emphasized that Dr. Moore "has provided unbelievable leadership to us during these years of service.... He will be missed as a leader in convention life."

It has been a personal privilege for me to count Bro. Don as a friend and encourager during the brief time we have served Arkansas Baptists together. His spiritual commitment and consistency are worthy examples for all Arkansas Baptists to follow.

"I desire to be among you as a man sent from God," Dr. Moore told state convention leaders following his election in 1982. He voiced that same desire during an interview last week after announcing his retirement.

Thank you, Bro. Don, for effectively serving Arkansas Baptists as "a man sent from God" throughout your tenure as executive director. Thank you, Lord, that even in a world of constant changes, some things always remain the same.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

whatever was needed to help us return to Arkansas. How can we forget our Panamanian friends, who showed concern in so many ways? How can we forget the prayers of Southern Baptists? Day after day we receive mail from you. We appreciate every expression of concern.

You have helped us face this crisis. Through it all God is teaching us more about Himself and the reliability of His Word. We find comfort in Isaiah 40:31, "They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

Glenn and Pauline Nicholson
FMB missionaries to Panama

WMU deserves support

I strongly disagree with the SBC Executive Committee's recommendations to remove from Woman's Missionary Union the assignments to develop women's ministries, promote missions education and raise money for our two mission boards (over \$2 billion in the last century).

Southern Baptists owe WMU a huge debt of gratitude in providing leadership in these vital areas of ministry for decades — and on a self-supporting basis. They merit our support and confidence for leadership in these areas in the future.

If you agree, I urge you to express your gratitude and support to our state and national WMU offices and to express to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee your disagreement with, and disapproval of, their recommendation regarding the WMU.

Jamie L. Jones, Jr.
Fayetteville, AR

Don Moore: 'God is finishing the work He called me to do'

By Don Moore
ABSC Executive Director

In 1982 one of the greatest spiritual battles of my life was fought that finally resulted in my understanding that God wanted me to come to the office of the Executive Director to try to lead Arkansas Baptists. Though I struggled long and hard resisting the thought that He could want me to do that, I yielded to His call. He has confirmed many, many times that the decision was right. For nearly 13 years I have not only enjoyed the favor of God but have experienced the peace of God that I was walking in His will.

It has been an unbelievable blessing to have served the Arkansas Baptist family during this period of our history. The measure of trust and support I have been given defies explanation except for the grace of God. These have been years filled with challenge and risk. A faithful heavenly Father, a devoted family, a committed staff and thousands of devoted pastors, staff and lay leaders have made it possible for us to walk together in meaningful fellowship and ministry.

For a number of years Shirley and I felt that the work God had called us to do in this position would be completed when I reached retirement age. This conviction grew stronger as we passed through her extended illness and death. The conviction has continued into my present marriage. While many questions remain unanswered as to why, it is my conviction that by the time I have finished out the year, I will have completed the task assigned to me.

Therefore, I announced March 30 to the Operating Committee of the Executive Board that I will be retiring as Executive Director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention not later than Feb. 29, 1996. It would be my hope that the Operating Committee which is the search committee for securing my replacement would be able to find that person in time to be approved at the December Executive Board meeting. Should that take place, the new Executive Director could begin his tenure Jan. 2, 1996, and have two months to work with this administration before completing my service Feb. 29.

The answer is "no" to four questions that are sure to arise. "Are you under pressure to retire?" "Has your recent marriage precipitated this?" "Do you have

something else you had rather do?" "Do you have health problems that would call for this?" My honest opinion is that God is finishing the work He called me to do and I must be prepared to move into the next field of service to which He calls me. There are no subtle, hidden reasons for me to make this decision. To the best of my discernment, I am acting in obedience to His leading.

While my future ministry is totally unknown to me, it is well known to Him who will, in His time make assignments to me that may be even more daring and exciting than those with which He has so blessed my life. I covet your prayers for God's clear direction and protection of my life and ministry. Nothing about retirement calls for me to be free from His yoke. To be found so would doubtless be the ultimate sadness of my life.

Arkansas Baptists have been more to me than I could have ever asked. They have walked with me through life's greatest joys and sadnesses. Their trust and respect have stimulated me to greater efforts. Their love and concern have buoyed me up on life's troubled sea time and again. They have entered into the joys and hopes of my life with as much zest as they did sympathy in the losses of my life. In other words, they have been more than I could have ever asked or expected them to be. They will have my undying love and appreciation.

Knowing that this day was coming, I have entered into the planning process for 1996-2000 with real vigor. I want the years following my departure to be marked with unprecedented progress. Our early plans for the 150th anniversary celebration and the publication of a new history of Arkansas Baptists were set in motion in light of my leaving. The 1997 Foreign Mission Board commissioning service was planned, while knowing that I would not be here to enjoy it. My desire was to have everything in process so that these wonderful events could be properly carried out.

Everything about this year and the next five years should inspire us all to increasing excitement and zeal. Our goals are totally compatible with God's revealed will. We can press on with the greatest of vigor, expecting His full blessing upon us. I will treasure and savor every moment of every "last" experience as we walk through the programs and activities for the last time this year.

Baptist leaders

MARK SHORT

President, Southern Baptist Association of State Convention Executive Directors

When I heard of the retirement plans of colleague Don Moore, two words came to mind. The first was zeal — a zeal for the Word of God, the church, missions and evangelism. And a deep appreciation for people and their needs.

The second word was rejoice. He enjoys life to the fullest. In spite of the dark times of the pilgrimage, he radiates inner joy.

Our fellowship of executive directors will miss the zealous presence of our dear friend, Don Moore.

RONNIE ROGERS

ABSC President

The state convention Executive Board's operating committee was jolted into shock and sadness as Brother Don shared his impending retirement.

The years of Brother Don's ministry will be etched upon a plaque, the accomplishments of his ministry will be inscribed upon the pages of Arkansas Baptist history, but the importance of his life, love and ministry will live in the hearts, lives and upon the lips of people for generations.

JERE D. MITCHELL

President, ABSC Executive Board

Dr. Moore has led Arkansas Baptists in a wonderful way. I am saddened by his retirement announcement. I wish and pray for him the leadership of God.

WILLIAM H. "BUDDY" SUTTON

Former ABSC President

It will be a long time before Arkansas Baptists will be able to measure the depth of Don Moore's service. With perfect timing, God sent him to us in a unique mixture of strength tempered with tenderness, urgency harnessed with caution, discipline blessed with grace. More than once we have said and will continue to say, "Thank you, Lord, for Don Moore."

JIMMIE SHEFFIELD

ABSC Associate Executive Director

First, let me say, Arkansas Baptists are not losing Don Moore. He will always be a Southern Baptist and an Arkansas Baptist, but he will be missed as a leader in convention life. However, I will personally lose a great coworker/supervisor. Though I won't lose his friendship, I feel like my best friend won't be available when I need him.

All the Executive Board staff will miss

affirm Moore's ministry

him. He has provided unbelievable leadership to us during these years of service. His integrity is above reproach. His compassion for people is one of his greatest attributes. His vision is as broad as the world. His knowledge of people always amazes me.

I believe the ABSC will continue to be a vibrant force in assisting our churches and associations. Brother Don led us in the development of a vision and plan for the future which we call "Arkansas Awakening." This vision and plan will enable us to stay on track where God is leading us. In addition, we have a strong fellowship in Arkansas and a great commitment to be on mission.

I am very sad that he's leaving his position. But, I know that Brother Don is doing what God wants him to do. For that, I am happy and excited for him and will continue to pray for him as he enters a different phase of his pilgrimage in serving the Lord.

JAMES WILSON

Pastor, Parkway Place Church, Little Rock

Although Don Moore and I have been close friends for more than 40 years, the Holy Spirit brought us into a closer and deeper relationship about five years ago when Don asked me to be his prayer partner. Throughout the time of Shirley's illness, I witnessed in Don what could only be recognized as a supernatural outpouring of strength.

One of the things that has made Don an effective leader is his love for God's people. I trust that all his friends will pray for Don as faithfully as He has prayed for us....I have come to a growing conviction that his greatest service is still ahead.

BEN M. ELROD

President, Ouachita Baptist University

Don Moore's retirement will be an immeasurable loss to Arkansas Baptists. In our acquaintance of 40 years, I have learned to take Don's involvement in any situation seriously, because he always does. He does not treat people or situations lightly. This is one of his greatest strengths, and also one of his heaviest burdens.

He applied himself with his usual seriousness to his task as executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. I hope that we have watched Don Moore carefully as he performed his ministry. His kind does not come along very often. He has been God's man doing God's work in God's way.

JULIA KETNER

Executive Director, Arkansas WMU

It's been a joy to serve with Brother Don for he has modeled what it means to be a servant leader and to walk daily with the Lord. His ministry has been undergirded by a deep prayer life that is evident to those with whom he works and serves. His genuine love and concern for people have been demonstrated again and again not only to the staff, but throughout this state and even beyond. He has been a leader who is approachable by his staff and that "open-door policy" is greatly appreciated by coworkers.

I'm grateful also for the strong support he has given to Woman's Missionary Union. He has the world on his heart and challenges individuals and churches to do the same as together we seek to carry out the Great Commission.

The WMU Watchword says it well, "Laborers together with God." His leadership will be missed but we know God will continue to use him in special ways to make a world of difference wherever his place of service is.

LEE LAWSON

President, Arkansas Baptist Directors of Missions Fellowship

I was surprised to hear of Don Moore's retirement plans.

He has been good for our state. His unique blend of executive ability and a pastor's heart has made him a well-respected leader.

I am grateful for the working relationship we have had over the years. He always demonstrated a genuine concern for the churches in my association and for my ministry among them. His ministry to Arkansas Baptists will be missed.

PAUL SANDERS

Pastor, Geyer Springs First Church

Don Moore is a man who is loved; who has loved, cared for and ministered to the pastors and church members of the state with the same dedication he has as a pastor of a local church. He is a man of the highest integrity and godly character.

He has been fair, consistent and caring about our work and witness as Southern Baptists in Arkansas. We have had harmonious fellowship as a convention throughout his tenure. He has not tried to push a political agenda but has been burdened about having a positive witness to the lost about Jesus.

Don Moore "has been God's man doing God's work in God's way."

— Ben Elrod
President, Ouachita Baptist University

"His compassion for people is one of his greatest attributes. His vision is as broad as the world. His knowledge of people always amazes me."

— Jimmie Sheffield
ABSC Associate Executive Director

"The importance of his life, love and ministry will live in the hearts, lives and upon the lips of people for generations."

— Ronnie Rogers
ABSC President

East Arkansas community seeks to build chapel at prison unit

By Russell N. Dilday
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

When an interdenominational group of Christians established a ministry and building fund for a chapel at a local prison, they didn't know that their efforts would result in a revival not only in the prison, but in their community as well.

Supporters of the Chapel Facilities Fund began the fund-raising effort for a chapel at the Arkansas Department of Corrections' East Arkansas Regional Unit at Briceys last summer.

Allan Greer, pastor of First Church, Marianna, serves as chairman of the group. He said the effort began after First Church member Fred Rutledge, a retired ophthalmologist, began a weekly Bible study at the unit.

In the spring of 1993, Rutledge invited Don Yancey, chaplain for the ADC Cummins Unit, to speak at the East Arkansas Unit. During his visit, Yancey felt a burden to minister to the inmates at the East Arkansas unit and asked for a transfer to the Briceys unit.

Also burdened for the Briceys unit was Charles Jones, pastor of Holly Grove Church in Forrest City and area coordinator for all ADC Chapel Facilities Funds in the state. During a men's meeting in the summer of 1994, the meeting's speaker, Yancey, shared the need for a chapel.

Jones assembled the steering committee for the chapel building plan and provided a vision for the group. The committee soon began making plans and assessing the need of the inmates.

The committee's assessment resulted in plans being made for a 65-foot by 100-foot chapel. The building will include a sanctuary with seating for more than 400 inmates, a library and chaplains' offices.

Greer said the plan call for raising \$170,000 to complete the project, using ADC labor. He said the group already has received \$32,000 plus pledges of another \$25,000. "The board moved ahead and is building as we have funds," he noted.

Emphasizing the ecumenical nature of the campaign, he added, "This has never been a First Baptist Church project. It involves six counties around us and several denominations." Fund supporters broke ground for the chapel during a ceremony last fall.

"The facility came out of need," Greer explained. "We began to look at the part we in the community could play. They presently have a 30-foot by 40-foot building,

but as it expands for growth."

Yancey said the present chapel room is not large enough to accommodate worshippers among the prison's present 792 inmates. He said projections indicate the unit's population will grow to 1,624 within the next two years.

"Obviously, for those who choose to worship, there is not enough room to accommodate all at any one time," Yancey noted. "Many have to wait until the next 'Church Call' and hope they make it then."

Hopeful inmates echoed the need for a larger chapel facility.

"Sadly, the facility here is inadequate for (worship). We have three services a week and the chapel is filled to capacity most of the time," said inmate James Dunn. "There are many occasions where men are not allowed to come because the chapel is already full. We can hardly expect anyone to accept the Word until they have heard Him."

Inmate Clint Lewis agreed. "We have 12 barracks and by the time we have called from four to five, the chapel is full."

Dunn added that "even if revival occurred here, what would we do with the converts? Where would we take them for worship and instruction?"

Dunn's concerns are well-founded, said Greer, who noted that "spiritual revival is taking place. From January to November,

1994, there were 373 professions of faith" at the unit. "God is doing something God-sized," he declared.

Greer added that the revival experienced behind the unit's wall also is being felt beyond the walls in many churches. "We're seeing God unite different denominations to be involved," he said. "Not just the building of the chapel, but the chapel ministry itself. We are seeing a unity between blacks and whites and a wall broken down to reach people for Christ."

The inmates "are igniting a flame in me and the rest of the free world that we are carrying back to our churches," he said.

Yancey also emphasized the need for the chapel as a rehabilitation facility within the unit's walls. "The state can rehabilitate the body to the point that one may become a bodybuilder. They can rehabilitate the mind so that an inmate might receive his (doctor of philosophy degree).

"But only God can rehabilitate the soul," he said. "Without this experience, many who leave prison will return again. It is going to be up to the church to catch the vision of the mission field in the prisons."

Greer said the ADC recognizes and supports the rehabilitative mission of a chapel ministry. "The ADC has really been a tremendous asset and supportive," he said. "They realize there is a group of people who are willing to help them in what they are trying to do - rehabilitating men."

"We realize that in the Delta region God has placed a mission field in our backyard," Greer remarked. "We can make a difference and impact here at home."

"The bottom line" of the building fund efforts, he said, "is Psalm 127:1. God will build this house. Anything else will be vain. He is calling the Christian community to work together on this."



Steering committee members of Chapel Facilities Fund, Inc., broke ground Oct. 20 for a chapel at the East Arkansas Regional Unit near Briceys. Allan Greer (right), pastor of First Church, Marianna, is chairman of the steering committee.

CP Day to focus on missions giving

Celebrating Cooperative Program Day in the local church April 9 has an increased importance this year, according to Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

He noted that 1995 marks the 150th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention and the 70th anniversary of the birth of the Cooperative Program.

The SBC has established a CP goal of \$150 million for 1995 to mark its anniversary. "If we reach our budget we will be strong participants in that \$150 million goal," Sheffield emphasized.

He said that if the ABCS reached its goal of \$16.6 million, "we will contribute \$6,933,820 to the SBC Cooperative Program. It is important, in the light of this emphasis, to reach our goal."

Currently the ABCS keeps 58.23 percent of its CP gifts for state missions and ministries and sends 41.77 percent to SBC ministries.

The state's leading church in total dollar amount giving through CP in 1994 was Immanuel Church in Little Rock, which channeled more than \$391,000 through the CP.

David Napier, Immanuel's associate pastor, said members have chosen to give 18 percent of the church budget to the Cooperative Program. Explaining the church's reason for supporting the CP, he said, "Immanuel has always had a heart for missions - it is the key to what our church is about."

"We believe that the CP supports missions in an equitable way," he added. "It has a life of its own here, so we don't have to promote it extensively."

Napier defended the CP as "a program that is not perfect, but the best way to support missions at home and overseas."

Sheffield listed ways churches can observe the CP Day, including:

- Presentation or sermon. "A Cooperative Program presentation built around missions, a sermon by the pastor or inviting a missionary to speak is a way to expose a large number of people to CP ministries," Sheffield noted.

- A special CP study using the book, *Cooperative Program at Work around the World*, as a teaching guide.

- Use of dramas written around the Cooperative Program theme.

- Holding a Cooperative Program prayer breakfast "targeted to any group such as men or Woman's Missionary Union members or churchwide."

Huckabay resigns presidency of Williams Baptist College

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Twelve months after being inaugurated as president of Williams Baptist College, Gary Huckabay has resigned the college presidency. Huckabay's resignation followed a called meeting of the college's board of trustees who gathered in Little Rock March 21 to address concerns about Huckabay's administration presented by the school's six tenured professors.

In a prepared statement following his resignation, Huckabay said, "It is with deep regret that I offer my resignation, effective immediately, to the board of trustees due to an incompatibility in the governance and direction of the college."

Huckabay, who was inaugurated March 19, 1994, began serving as WBC president seven months earlier. He previously was dean of the College of Adult and Continuing Education at Dallas Baptist University.

The six faculty members' statement, which focused on such concerns as management style, communications and budgeting decisions, included a vote of "no confidence" in Huckabay's leadership.

Board chairman R.W. Ross, who called the March 21 meeting, told the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, "My perception of what happened is that a significant number of the faculty and Dr. Huckabay had a philosophical difference about the direction of the school. The difference was so severe that he could not effectively continue as president."

Huckabay said he accepted the Williams' presidency in August 1993 "with a challenge to make some positive changes on the campus. As everyone knows, change can be very difficult even when we want change."

"I believe Williams has made some very positive changes in my short tenure and is headed in the right direction," the former president added. He said he views the differences with faculty as "methodological" rather than "philosophical," acknowledging there was "disagreement about how to achieve the same goals."

Concerning his decision to resign, Huckabay explained, "I felt like communication had broken down with tenured faculty to the point that it would have been very difficult to recover."

W.E. Williams, the founder and president emeritus of the college, reportedly has been at odds with Huckabay's leadership for several months. The trustee board held a called meeting in January to hear Williams' concerns but voted at that time to affirm Huckabay's leadership.

While Ross said he doesn't believe the current crisis is related to Williams' charges, other college leaders agreed the two situations are linked.

As an example, six days before Huckabay's resignation, the faculty council voted 21-1 to commend Williams "for his insightful and responsible leadership of this college in the past and his continuing and sacrificial commitment to the well-being of the college." The resolution, which was forwarded to Huckabay, Williams and trustees, noted that the faculty council "regrets profoundly the recent difficulties and controversies which have marked the life of the college."

Jeph Holloway, chairman of the faculty council, explained, "There came to be a wide recognition that in terms of the vision of what Williams Baptist College needs to be and how to pursue that vision, there were vast differences." Holloway said the action by the faculty council as well as the specific concerns voiced by the tenured faculty were efforts to "do what is appropriate for our institution and for the students....The future of our institution is our basic concern."

Bob Magee, one of the tenured professors who presented the list of concerns to trustees, said Huckabay and most faculty members "just did not share the same vision regarding the future of the school. We had met with Dr. Huckabay to explain where the differences of vision were. We agreed that our visions did not lie in the same direction."

Ross, who also chaired the presidential search committee which recommended Huckabay, described Huckabay as "a man of integrity and a gentleman."

Noting that Huckabay's decision to resign "had as much to do with his love for the school as for his personal situation," Ross added, "I don't think anybody is happy about what has happened but I think we do agree it was the best thing to do....We love him and wish him Godspeed."

"There are many fine servants here at Williams Baptist College trying to prepare the generation of tomorrow," Huckabay responded. "Those who support the college should realize that Williams is making an important contribution to God's kingdom."

Ross also announced that the trustees have asked Jerol Swaim to serve as interim president. Swaim, who was interim president prior to Huckabay's election, is currently academic dean and executive vice president.

Speakers urge WMU members to continue missions support

Visiting missionaries discussed sowing seeds on foreign, home and state mission fields during the 106th annual meeting of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union March 17-18 at First Church in Conway.

Ellis and Judy Leagans, furloughing missionaries to Colombia, shared how the call to sow seeds on the foreign mission field were sown in their lives — for him at age 12 and her while in seminary.

Mrs. Leagans said children's work, music, prison ministry, shopping malls, children visiting in their home and one-on-one outreach are among the ways she is sowing seed in Colombia. Leagans said his seed-sowing involves whatever needs to be done, including preaching, teaching, organizing church programs, administration and coordinating work with Colombian Baptists.

Leagans said being an effective missionary involves being in God's will, communicating the message of Jesus Christ amid bomb threats, water rationing, driving in Colombian traffic, living with the siesta schedule or ministering to volcano victims.

"It involves telling people of the person of Jesus Christ in difficult situations," he summarized. "But whatever the situation, we always know that God's grace is sufficient."

Leagans requested prayer for the 33 million people in Colombia who need the Lord and that Colombian Baptist churches will develop a deeper vision for reaching out and starting new works.

The Leagans, who have been serving as furloughing missionaries in residence at Ouachita Baptist University, voiced appreciation for Arkansas Baptists reaching out to the 73 MKs enrolled at the university.

Home missionary Dorcas Camacho Byrd expressed her gratitude to God for allowing her to sow His word in Houston, Texas. Byrd recently became director of four missions centers there, succeeding retired missionary Mildred McWhorter.

Byrd also gave God the glory for providing people to assist with the maintenance needs of the four centers as well as a retired accountant to coordinate finances.

Emphasizing that any person called to a profession can be used by God if they commit to His service, Byrd said, "When individuals make these commitments, they can use them daily to transform lives for Jesus Christ. People like this made possible these centers in which I work."

"We are called to be servants, letting God use us in transforming the world," she declared. "In addition, God has shown me that as we look into our neighborhoods we can approach the needs of others with a Christ-centered approach."

Jimmy Barrentine, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, affirmed the Arkansas WMU,



Thurman and Kathie Braughton, Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to the Philippines, told WMU members, "You have been our prayer power and support."

emphasizing that he is both a friend and encourager of the organization.

Presenting a modern-day version of feeding the multitude, Barrentine used a diet soft drink and food supplement and compared them to some churches' mission principle of giving and personal involvement.

He explained that 1993 state missions giving was not enough to meet all state missions need but that Arkansans exceeded the 1994 goal, contributing \$706,498. "We have established a 1995 Dixie Jackson Offering goal of \$725,000," he added.

"It is critical that the gospel be taken to everyone in our state but we must not stop there," Barrentine said. "We must also keep our world vision. I leave saying: WMU never give up the mission cause, we need you, it is the Father that has called you so stay in the force."

Debbie Moore, a Southern Baptist missionary to Liberia and former Arkansas WMU associate, told participants, "I'm 42 years old and I'm just a big GA...I'm proud to be a part of Arkansas WMU. You've

played a big part in my life and have been a blessing to me through the years."

Noting that "WMU trained me, God called me and the Foreign Mission Board appointed me," she said, "That's an example of being laborers together with God."

"As we move toward a new century," Moore said, "I am trusting God to continue leading Woman's Missionary Union to be all He wants us to be — and may we be found faithful."

Serving as a missionary in Liberia for 13 years "has taught me a lot about waiting," Moore said. She added, however, that "for a Christian, wait is an action word."

Moore described the faith of Liberian Christians who are "waiting on God to bring peace to their war-torn country," she said. "His love sustains...If missionaries ran every time a bomb fell or a government was overthrown, we would have a mass exodus of missionaries almost weekly."

"Waiting on the Lord means praying and trusting every hour, every day to God," she concluded. "Waiting on the Lord brings strength and courage."

Thurman and Kathie Braughton, Southern Baptist missionaries to the Philippines, told WMU participants, "You have been our prayer power and support."

The couple related their work through the story of the Escadero family, which the couple has worked with while on the field. Mrs. Braughton told of God's work with the family following the kidnapping by Muslim bandits of "Papa" Escadero, an older member of the family who they referred to as a "quiet believer."

"We shared with the family," Mrs. Braughton recalled. "Just be patient, the verses (we read) said," she shared. "On Jan. 5 we got a phone call that said he had been released."

"From a quiet believer, he now cannot say enough," she emphasized. "Because of his experience, many family members were saved."

Braughton shared of his ministries in a Filipino jail. He told of Jimmy Lin, a Chinese addict jailed "for being incorrigible," who was saved and began leading others to the Lord. After his release though, "Jimmy did go back to prison — not as a prisoner, but as the pastor behind the prison walls of the church built by Lottie Moon gifts."

"Would you like to be part of the reaping of the harvest?" Braughton asked. "You have a vital part when you pray. You have a vital part when you give. You may even be lifted by the Holy Spirit to go."

Ketner questions SBC proposal, calls for prayer

By Russell N. Dilday
Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Using her annual executive board report to analyze a proposed Southern Baptist Convention restructuring plan, state WMU executive director Julia Ketner questioned whether grassroots Southern Baptists were represented in the planning process.

"My first concern is the make-up of the committee itself," she said. "It was all white, Anglo men from large churches.

"If we were looking to the future, then why wasn't an African-American or a non-English-speaking person appointed to represent those areas in which Southern Baptists are growing?" she asked. "Or where was the representation of probably more than half of our membership — women?"

The restructuring committee's report, "Covenant for a New Century," has proposed that SBC agencies be cut from 19 to 12. Under the proposed changes, responsibility for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, both founded by the national WMU, would be transferred to the SBC's home and foreign missions agencies.

Ketner also emphasized that the proposal was approved by the SBC Executive Committee "after only 45 minutes of discussing the most massive restructuring in the 150-year history of our convention."

Reviewing changes made by the national WMU in 1993 "aimed at helping WMU be relevant as a national missions organization in the 21st century," Ketner added, "You remember the responses: The analogy that WMU had committed adultery, that we had 'declared independence from the SBC, that our real goal was to promote ordination of women.' These and other rumors surfaced in an attempt to discredit the work of WMU, to bring them under the control of the SBC.

"The issue then and still is the matter of control," she declared. "WMU did not yield to the threats in 1993 but courageously chose to remain an auxiliary. So what steps have now been taken to 'punish' us for not submitting to control?"

"Woman's Missionary Union has been stripped of her work as missions educators with the assignment of missions education given to the North American Mission Board," she answered.

Ketner also noted that committee members "reported they did not assign any ministry statements for WMU out of respect for the organization's status as a self-governing auxiliary. That sounds good if you don't look at the total picture.

"Is respect being shown by taking from us the previously convention-adopted program statements?" she asked. "By taking away that which we started, the promotion of the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings? Is it respect when they chose not to even develop a written statement to define the relationship between the SBC and WMU?"

"Respect? Hardly," she insisted. "But for all practical purposes, WMU may have no assigned role to play in the SBC should the report be approved as is.

"While there is much talk about how the relationship between WMU and the SBC doesn't have to be different," she explained, "without a statement to define that relationship, there is a strong possibility that WMU will eventually have no place in the life of the SBC. I believe the committee has taken measures for that to happen without concern for...missions."

Ketner also predicted that if the report is approved by SBC messengers in 1995 and 1996, "the future of Woman's Missionary Union is very much in doubt. If WMU is not acknowledged as an SBC missions organization, then most likely there would be no state WMU organization."

She told participants, though, that "the real concern is missions. We know who is the missions conscience of the church" she said. "It's you, members of WMU."

She recalled how WMU has helped raise more than \$2 billion for world mis-

sions and helped with SBC fund-raising efforts. "Have we made a difference in SBC life?" she asked. "Indeed we have and continue to do so. But now, apparently we may no longer be needed or more accurately, wanted by those who must have control over all. It is time to speak out and stand up for what we began, what we believe in and what we know is vital to the ongoing mission program of Southern Baptists," Ketner said.

She urged WMU members to "pray for the leadership of the Holy Spirit in interpreting and understanding the report," become informed, write letters of concern, "go to the SBC meeting in Atlanta and vote your conscience."

"I urge you in the midst of uncertainty to stay true to the task, to press on for the cause to which God has called us," she emphasized. "We must not become discouraged, for we are truly laborers together with God."

In other action, Ketner proposed a record goal for the 1995 state missions offering. WMU members adopted the proposed goal of \$725,000 for the Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering.

Participants also collected more than \$3,500 for the Marjorie Grober Missionary Magazine Offering. The offering, named in memory of former state WMU president Marjorie Grober, is used to purchase magazine subscriptions for foreign missionaries from Arkansas.



Members of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union celebrated the 25th birthday of the Mission Friends, Girls in Action and Acteens missions education organizations during their annual meeting March 17-18 in Conway.

Bible studies lead WMU members to 'Grow'

Planting, nurturing, waiting and harvesting were Bible study themes complementing the overall theme of "A Time to Grow" which highlighted the 1995 Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.

David Moore, president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation; Trennis Henderson, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist News-magazine*; and David James, director of the Arkansas Baptist student ministry department, led the studies. The three substituted for Bruce Tippitt, pastor of Fianna Hills Church in Fort Smith, who was unable to attend due to the death of his father.

Moore, speaking during the Friday morning session, questioned the unwillingness of Christians to plant the seeds of the gospel. "If we made a discovery of how to cure cancer and did not share it, we would be called immoral by all," he declared. "Yet, we have the gospel of Jesus Christ to share with the world and will not do it."

He noted that Southern Baptists are not doing what Jesus commanded when He instructed His followers to go into all the world, teach the gospel, make disciples and baptize believers. "Our generation... is not trying to help people turn their hearts toward God.

"We need to let our seed-planting become as contagious as yawning, whether it is with large or small groups," he concluded. "As you share and people respond, challenge believers to also become seed planters."

During the Friday afternoon session, Moore cited praying, giving and going as ways to nurture believers. He also listed the development of a mission strategy for

foreign, home and local missions as another nurturing method.

"People involvement led to the cure for polio," Moore said. "What a difference could be made if people become involved in sharing the gospel message around the world and nurturing those who believe."

Moore said spiritual awakening could come not only to Arkansas but throughout the world if people would commit themselves to personally share the Word of God. "I don't know what you are going to leave this place carrying with you," he remarked, "but I hope it is a burning desire of evangelism and missions endeavors that cause people to become committed to planting, watering and maturing disciples."

Describing planting, nurturing and harvesting as "a lot more exciting" than his assigned topic of "waiting," Henderson acknowledged during the Friday evening session that he quickly discovered that "waiting on the Lord is a vital skill all of us need and most of us tend to ignore."

Citing such Scripture passages as Psalm 46:10 and Isaiah 40:31, Henderson added, "Waiting may not be more important than planting and nurturing and harvesting, but waiting is every bit as important to assure a successful and abundant harvest."

Henderson said God expects His followers to wait upon instructions from Him. "As we wait on God for a specific assignment, I believe we should be actively waiting by praying, witnessing, worshiping and serving," he said.

Highlighting Psalm 40:1-3, he explained that God-focused waiting produces patience which leads to God's provision "in His timing and in His way." Henderson said God's provision produces praise as it

prompts others to profess faith in Him.

Sharing his appreciation for the ministry of WMU, Henderson told Arkansas WMU members, "I affirm the strength of your past, appreciate the service of your present and anticipate the success of your future."

James, speaking from Mark 4:29 in the Saturday morning session, urged participants to "keep the sickle sharp" in reaping the spiritual harvest for the Kingdom of God "if we are going to go about the work that the Lord has for us to do."

James called WMU members to a time of harvest, adding that it also is a time for:

■ **Celebration.** "We've come this weekend to celebrate what God is doing and the experiences of the harvest," he said. "But when does it start? We are to immediately put the sickle in."

■ **Urgency.** "The farmer has a hard time being sick during harvest. That sense of urgency comes to us when we look at the world and we go down and we take our sickles. Do you have a sickle? It is urgent."

■ **Giving.** "It is a part of our total being - physical emotional and, yes, financial," he said. "It may cost you financially to put the sickle in the midst of the harvest. When it is harvest time, leave the corners just the way they are so the poor, the widow and the aliens also (may eat)."

■ **Weeping.** "We live in a time when people are sowing to the wind and reaping and there is hurt and there is sorrow," he said. "We must put in our sickle to that field. You must move into a people with hurt and reap among that harvest."

"What a great enterprise this is and we have a Lord of the harvest," he concluded. "You keep your sickle sharp and I will keep my sickle sharp. Harvest has come."

Testimonies affirm God's help in difficult times

Three members of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union shared personal testimonies during the WMU annual meeting held March 17-18 at First Church in Conway. The three recounted how changes in their lives had been used to prompt spiritual growth and open doors of service.

Vickey Lloyd, a member of University Church in Fayetteville, recalled how God aided her family as they prepared to move from North Little Rock to Fayetteville.

"We knew this would bring drastic changes to our children's lives," she said. "To give them some say in our move, we let them select their new church home of University Church. God used their selection to open doors of service for the entire family," Lloyd noted. "Since joining, we have assisted with Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, a Christmas pageant and the organization of an Hispanic mission."

"In addition, I have been privileged to serve for two years on the state WMU Executive Board," she concluded. "I am so thankful God had good things for us as we made our change."

Kay Miller, a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, shared that change came to her life when she left the mission field

of Thailand where her parents served to enroll in Baylor University.

"As I boarded the plane, it dawned on me that I was all by myself," she recalled. "However, I had the faith that the Lord would provide all my needs and that I must depend on Him."

"God provided my first need by giving me a roommate whom I had known in the fifth grade," she said. "In addition, I thought I had to find a car and learn to drive, but again God met my needs by providing a furloughing missionary couple to aid me."

Kathy Linn, WMU director for First Church in Conway, shared how her life changed when her granddaughter was injured in an automobile accident.

"Her injuries were so many that she had numerous surgeries, spent seven months in the hospital and today, even though five years old, she has to be cared for like an infant," she explained.

"Every time we got a bad report, the Lord just held us a little bit tighter," Linn affirmed. "We went through months of ups and downs but every time there was a down, His grace was deeper."

Noting that her father also suffered a massive stroke last year, Linn pointed out, "Through all these changes, the Lord hasn't changed....His joy and grace are always deeper than the pain."

Bell reflects on contributions of women throughout history

WMU editor helps 'navigate' proposed program changes

Helping members of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union adapt to program changes coming to WMU in the fall, Cindy Dake led four "Growing Through Change" presentations during the WMU annual meeting.

Dake, editor of *Royal Service* and *Contempo* magazines for the national WMU, told participants she would like to help navigate them through a clearer understanding of change and transition.

"As we navigate our way through changes in WMU, we will do ourselves a favor if we look for ways to allow ourselves and others to acknowledge their feelings during the ending of the ways things have been," she remarked.

"Remember that every member and every leader will have her own concerns which she'll need to work through," Dake continued. "Be prepared to cope with these fears by providing training, establishing short-term goals, listening to their frustrations and concerns."

Emphasizing that change can open up new opportunities to use gifts, Dake said one of the best results of changes in WMU organizations will be the involvement of more women, girls and preschoolers. "This will be a time when innovative and creative people begin to see the positives associated with the new," she declared.

Dake noted that a new beginning requires action. Encouraging WMU members to open themselves to changes in the WMU structure, she said, "Sometimes the old is still good and is still working. But you can't juggle it all. We must let go of something old in order to do the new well."

She cautioned, however, that organizational changes should not be viewed as a "one-time effort. To organize for continuous, never-ending improvement and for continuous, unpredictable change requires that the structure of the organization and the people in the organization be capable of constant realignment."

Calling for the move to the organizational changes to be positive, she urged participants to "look toward the future...with the outlook that flexibility and transition are part of the pathway we choose to walk...a path that leads us forward toward the Great Commission to which Christ called us."

Highlighting the roles of women from biblical days to today, Nadean Riley Bell concluded each session of the 1995 Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting with a brief dramatic monologue.

Bell, vice president of Arkansas WMU, closed the Friday morning session by reflecting upon Lydia and her conversion under Paul's leadership. As Lydia, Bell shared how she had seen a vision which revealed that the fellowship of believers needed to gather regularly to pray, give and minister to others.

"We can even teach the smallest children how to pray and share Jesus with their peers," she concluded. "In fact, we will continue to do these things until our Lord returns again unto us."

Bell closed the Friday afternoon session by reflecting upon Mary Oldham Eagle, elected in 1883 as president of the Arkansas Central Committee that was to organize new mission societies in churches, stimulate interest in missions and collect reports for publications. Following the organization of Arkansas WMU in 1888, Eagle continued in office until 1902.

Bell's reflections as Eagle began with the completion of the first successful meeting of WMU in Arkansas with prayer, planning and the shedding of fears being credited for the meeting's success.

"This meeting hasn't been without opposition," she said. "Some of the brethren and some of the sisters said women didn't have anything to give. However, women have a lot to give: sensitivity, eyes to see and be burdened by the needs around us."

The evening session concluded with reflections on the life of Fannie E.S. Heck, who not only attended the first meeting concerning the organization of a women's missions organization in the Southern Baptist Convention, but also served as its president and was a forerunner for providing educational literature for the new organization.

The reflections began as Heck was struggling to write the first words for "the new *Royal Service* magazine," recognizing that she must wait upon the Lord for inspiration. "I have never been very gracious at waiting," she said.

"I do want to see WMU with new emphases, see women all over the South involved in corporate prayer, in Bible study and in social actions, not afraid to get their hands dirty," she added.

She further reflected that God would do many things on His time table. "I must learn to wait upon Him upon my knees



WMU vice president Nadean Bell portrays Mary Oldham Eagle, elected in 1883 as the first president of the Arkansas Central Committee, a forerunner of WMU.

and not be so impatient, restless and some would even say bossy," she acknowledged.

During the meeting's final session, Bell's reflections focused on missions action opportunities available to WMU members.

"We've moved a long way from that tiny seed of women being involved in missions to where we are today," she said. "We can be involved in missions action and ministry in so many different ways."

"Today, we as women have to confront everything in our churches," Bell shared from her own perspective.

"I see WMU and especially Women on Mission becoming a great training ground, a tool-sharpening organization, if you will," Bell predicted. "I can look at the gifts and talents the Lord has given me with others who have the same gifts and we can come together, whether in the marketplace, homes or churches."

"Worship and work are just one thing to Him," she concluded. "But we haven't arrived yet. Those people that we bring to Him — they're the increase. When we die to sell then we will be planted anew. Yes, for us it's still a time to grow."

Church news

Immanuel Church of Rogers will present "The Kingdom of Heaven Is at Hand" as its 12th annual Easter pageant for the residents of Rogers and the surrounding area April 12-15 at 7 p.m. each evening. Presentations also will include a 4 p.m. Saturday matinee and a Wednesday evening youth emphasis. The musical drama will feature a choir, cast, crew and orchestra of more than 200 portraying the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.

Park Hill Church in North Little Rock music ministries will present The Greater Little Rock Easter Pageant April 8-10 at 7 p.m. each evening and at 3 p.m. on Saturday. The 276-member pageant cast will include the sanctuary choir and orchestra with full biblical drama. It also will feature live animals, including camels, sheep and a donkey. Performances, directed by Joe Fitzpatrick, will be in the North Little Rock High School's East Campus Auditorium.

Balboa Church of Hot Springs Village celebrated completion of their new church building April 2 with a formal dedication service and open house. The new building includes a 380-seat sanctuary and a fellowship hall which will be used for Bible classes and social activities. Dedication speakers were Tim Reddin, pastor of Barcelona Church; Jim Swedenburg, director of missions for Central Association; Jimmy Barentine, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department; and Rex Crane of Cooper Communities, Inc. who donated property for the church. The new church is located at 415 Ponce De Leon Drive. Balboa Church, with a current membership of 190, was begun as a mission of Barcelona Road Church in September 1991 and was constituted as a church in September 1992 with 66 charter members. Kenny Moore is pastor.

Flippin First Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary April 23 with activities that will begin with Sunday School at 9 a.m., followed by a 10 a.m. worship service and dinner-on-the-ground. Former pastors and members are invited to participate in the event which will conclude with an afternoon program of music and celebration.

Northwest Association sponsored a renewal prayer conference April 7-8 at First Church of Rogers. Don Miller, prayer consultant for Sagamore Hill Church in Fort Worth, Texas, was the conference leader.



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

Staff changes

James C. "Jim" Farrish Jr. joined the staff of First Church in Crossett April 2 as minister of music, coming there from Immanuel Church in Warren where he had been minister of music and youth since 1987. He previously was on the staff of First Church in Eudora as well as churches in Mississippi and Texas. Farrish is a graduate of Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss. He and his wife, Laurie, have two children, Mitzi and Vicki.

Wes Dean has joined the staff of Nettleton Church in Jonesboro as minister to youth and minister of evangelism. He previously has served churches in Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. A native of Crossett, Dean is a graduate of Criswell College in Dallas, Texas, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Amy Lynn, have two children, James Wesley and Brandon Louis.

Gary W. Doss has joined the staff of Third Church in Malvern as associate with responsibilities in the ministries of music, youth and children. He moved to Malvern from Camden where he was interim

minister of music for Hillside Church. Doss is a graduate of Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. He and his wife, Mitzi, have two children, Angie and Chris.

L.B. Atchison has accepted the call to become full-time pastor of Cross Road Church in Little Rock where he has been serving as interim pastor. Atchison, a native of Newport, recently moved to Little Rock from Harrison where he served for 10 years as director of missions for North Arkansas Association. He previously served associations in Mississippi, as well as serving as pastor of churches in Mississippi and Texas. In addition, Atchison has served on the board of trustees for Williams Baptist College. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College of Marshall, Texas, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Luther Rice Seminary. He has one daughter, Kimberleigh Paige, and one grandson.

James Summers Jr. of Stuttgart has begun his first ministry as a pastor by serving First Church in Aberdeen.

Greg Dills began serving March 5 as pastor of First Church in Lepanto where he had been interim pastor since November 1994. He previously had served the church as minister of music and youth for three years. Dills is a student at Mid-America Seminary.

Marisha Roberts has joined the staff of First Church in Searcy as minister to single adults and family ministries. She is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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Pre-registration: \$15 deposit (due by April 15)

Location: Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia

Total Cost: \$52 (includes materials, meals, lodging at OBU)

Contact: Church and Community Ministries, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5150

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Obituaries

Craig Friedl has been called to serve as bivocational pastor of Union Valley Church, Perryville. He was a member of Friendship Church in Sherwood.

David Hodge is pastor of Piney Church at Hot Springs, coming there from Friendly Hope Church in Jonesboro. He and his wife, Terri, have five children.

Doug Applegate has resigned as minister of youth at First Church in Mulberry, following more than two years of service. He and his wife, Becky, moved to Cooter, Mo., where he will be pastor of Holly Grove Church.

Shawn Shelton has joined the staff of First Church in Alma as student/activities minister. He previously served as student minister at Fairdale Church in Hot Springs. Shelton and his wife, Tawnya, plan to graduate from Ouachita Baptist University in May.

Dale Carlton has joined the staff of First Church in Searcy as minister to students. He currently is enrolled in the extension program of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary which meets at the Baptist Building in Little Rock.

Larry Grayson has announced his resignation from the staff of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock, effective April 9. Grayson, who has served there as minister of music and education, will join the staff of First Baptist Church in Lewisville, Texas, April 16 as minister of music. He previously served on the staff of First Church in Ashdown, First Church in

Camden and Cullendale First Church in Camden, as well as First Baptist Church in Russellville, Ala. Grayson is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. He also attended Southwestern Seminary.

William E. "Rick" Rikard resigned March 26 as music director for West Church in Batesville, following three years of service. He and his wife, Teresa, and their children, Sarah and Charles, will continue to reside in Batesville where he serves as director of the public school band program.

Tim Moore joined the staff of Crosspoint Church in North Little Rock March 20 as interim minister of education and youth, coming there from West Pensacola Church in Pensacola, Fla., where he was minister of education and youth. Moore is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, Julie Ann, is a music evangelist. They have three children, Timothy, Micah and Emily.

Ordinations

Campbell Station Church ordained pastor Frank Madison to the gospel ministry March 12.

Oak Grove Church in Ashdown ordained Mark Gipson Pounds as a deacon March 12.

Malvern First Church ordained Paul Beard, Walter Staley and Norris White to the deacon ministry March 19.

Joe D. Rubert, a chaplain at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center from 1970 to 1978, died March 8 in a Houston hospital from complications related to diabetes. At the time of his death he was serving as a jail chaplain. Survivors are his wife, Eleanor, and two sons, Joel and Paul, all of Missouri City, Texas. Memorials may be made to First Church in Hot Springs.

Josie Milner Scott of North Little Rock died March 19 at age 95. She was a member of Baring Cross Church where she was active in Sunday School, Woman's Missionary Union, the Reflections Choir and ukelele band. She retired at age 85 from her drapery business which she operated for 35 years. Survivors are a son, Raymond Scott of Fort Worth, Texas; two daughters, Sylvia Wesson of North Little Rock and Clytice Koehler of Sherwood; a sister; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Baring Cross Church or Baptist Medical System Hospice.

Hal W. Gallop Sr. of Paragould died March 25 at age 84. Gallop, a retired Southern Baptist minister, had been pastor of Zion Hill Church at Melbourne and Eastside Church at Cave City. In addition, he had been interim pastor of First Church of Ash Flat, Newark Southern Church, Pleasant Plains Church and First Church of Cherokee Village. Survivors are his wife, Melissa Gallop; a sister; and two grandchildren.

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Mohler fires Garland as dean of Southern's Carver School

LOUISVILLE, KY (ABP/BP) — The dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's school of social work was fired March 20 after telling students that new standards instituted by the seminary's president will make it impossible to hire qualified faculty.

President Albert Mohler asked for the resignation of Diana Garland, dean of the Carver School of Social Work, after Garland told a student forum that the future of the Carver School is "in serious jeopardy" and accreditation by the Council of Social Work Education is threatened.

The dispute arose over the hiring of a professor for Carver, the nation's only accredited, seminary-based social-work school. Mohler said he blocked the election of David Sherwood because of the candidate's position on women pastors. But that's inappropriate, Garland said, since Sherwood meets the school's official criteria for election.

In addition to affirming the seminary's Abstract of Principles and a 1991 "covenant renewal," David Dockery, vice president for academic administration, noted that prospective faculty also must restrict the role of women in the church from the office of senior pastor, affirm the exclusiveness of salvation in Jesus Christ alone, be clear that the Bible teaches that all homosexual behavior is sinful and acknowledge that the sanctity of life is pro-life and against abortion except in the most extreme circumstances. Dockery acknowledged that Mohler's restrictions will "narrow the prospect list" and exclude some "very fine but not outstanding evangelical/Baptist scholars." He added, however, that the seminary should still be able to "find good and capable prospects to come and join our faculty."

Dockery said Garland's dismissal has created "a pain and grief and sadness" that

is "as great as any event that has hit our campus."

He praised Garland as a "pioneering faculty member" who "has been a model of godly leadership."

"It is impossible to calculate the impact of this decision on the life of the seminary and its future," he added.

Mohler said he asked Garland to resign because she pre-empted "official administrative structures" and released "private and privileged information" in addressing the student forum.

Although fired as dean, Garland remains on the seminary faculty. She joined the faculty in 1983 and became dean in 1993.

Garland's firing as dean appears to reinforce the assertion that the Carver School may not survive. Garland told students even Mohler told her the school would not survive her resignation.

Mohler told students he does not want to kill the Carver School, but noted "the culture of social work and the culture of theological education are not congruent."

The Organization for Student Social Workers at the social work school issued a seven-point "request" of Mohler March 22 including a call for Garland's reinstatement as dean and public disclosure of "all processes for choosing faculty" at the seminary. The students also conducted a sit-in in front of Mohler's office the week after Garland's removal as dean.

Adding to the growing controversy, Dockery said a trustee committee will be appointed to study the future of the social work school. The committee will study whether to keep the school in its present form, change it or discontinue it, Dockery said. The trustee committee will be appointed in April, with a report due by October, he added.

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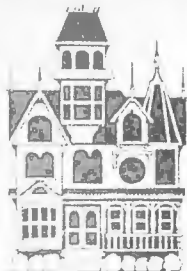
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Department director Robert Holley said the institute will "focus on spiritual awakening and equipping God's people for ministry."

He said the Monday afternoon and evening sessions will include workshops and messages about two of T.W. Hunt's recent works.

In God's Presence, a daily guide to a meaningful prayer life, will be led by David Carter, LIFE/MasterLife Coordinator at the Sunday School Board. Darrell Copeland, pastor of Jersey Village Church, Houston, Texas, will lead a workshop on The Mind of Christ and speak in the worship service on Monday night.

"Tuesday and Wednesday sessions will then provide training in a wide range of approaches and materials," Holley said.

Workshops on LIFE Support Ministry will be led by Tim Sledge, pastor of Kingsland Church in Katy, Texas. Sledge is author of *Making Peace with Your Past* and *Moving Beyond Your Past*.

David Walley, LIFE Support coordinator at the Sunday School Board, will conduct training sessions for facilitators who lead LIFE Support groups.

"There are a lot of churches who know about support groups but may not be able to give a (facilitator) training," explained Holley. "The key to a support group is the skill of the facilitator."

Eighteen workshops will be offered on Tuesday and Wednesday, including *A Time for Healing* (divorce recovery), *Experiencing God*, *Experiencing God for youth and pre-teens*, *First Place* (Christian health maintenance), *Fresh Encounter*, *Grief Recovery for Children*, *Shelter from the Storm* (abuse recovery), *TeamKID*, *KidShare* (helping children with divorce), and *Witnessing Through Your Relationships*.

The base cost for the institute is \$15 per person. Workshop materials will be available for purchase. Participants must provide their own meals and lodging.

For more information, contact Holley at the ABSC discipleship and family ministry department; phone 501-376-4791, ext. 5160.

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Hispanic Conference set for April 29

The 1995 Arkansas Baptist Hispanic Evangelism Conference, set for April 29 at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, will feature fellowship, worship and preaching "in the language of the people." It is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department.

The conference, conducted in the Spanish language, will highlight "Here's Hope: Share Jesus Now," Southern Baptists' 1995 evangelism emphasis.

The program will feature David Franklin D'Amico, the Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Also featured will be evangelist

Miguel Gonzalez, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Warner Robins, Ga. Music, devotionals and testimonies also will be featured.

Jim Hausler, language associate in the ABCS missions department, said Spanish is the largest ethnic language group in Arkansas with more than 30,000 Spanish-speaking residents. Currently there are 24 active Spanish-speaking missions in Arkansas.

The cost for the conference is \$5 per adult and children under 12 free. For more information, contact Hausler at 501-376-4791, ext. 5147.

Conferencia de Evangelismo será el 29 de Abril en Geyer Springs Church

La Conferencia Hispana de Evangelismo de Arkansas será el 29 de Abril en First Church, Geyer Springs, y tendrá campaña, adoración y predicación en el "el idioma del pueblo hispano." La Convención Bautista de Arkansas (ABCS) es el patrocinador.

La conferencia, en el idioma español hará hincapié a "Hay Esperanza; ¡Comparte a Jesús Ahora!" el énfasis de la convención para el año 1995.

El programa tendrá a David Franklin D'Amico, profesor de Evangelismo de la Cátedra Billy Graham del Seminario Teológico Bautista de Sur en Louisville, Ky. Además tendrá al evangelista Miguel

Gonzalez, pastor de la Primera Iglesia Bautista en Warner Robins, Ga. También hará música especial, devocionales y testimonios.

Jim Hausler, el asociado de lenguajes en el departamento de misiones de ABCS dijo que los hispanos son el grupo lingüístico más grande de Arkansas con más de 30,000 residentes. Hoy hay más de 24 misiones hispanas en Arkansas.

El costo de la conferencia es solamente \$5 para adultos por el almuerzo y gratis para niños que tiene menos que 12 años. Para más información, llama a Hausler del departamento de misiones de la ABCS; teléfono 501-376-4791, ext. 5147.

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Pianist wanted — general accompanist, adequate sight reader, Wednesday nights and Sundays. Send resumes to James Burleson, 120 Millwood Circle, Maumelle, AR 72113 or call 501-851-3547/851-4111.

Accepting resumes — for full-time minister of music/youth. Seminary student preferred. Send resumes to Steering Committee, First Baptist Church, Box 400, Lepanto, AR 72354.

Accepting resumes — for part-time youth minister. Send to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 438, Dierks, AR 71833.

Position open — for full-time youth/music minister. Send resume to Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 825, Osceola, AR 72370.

Seeking — First Baptist Church, Horseshoe Bend, is seeking a minister of music/youth full-time. Salary range: \$19,000 to \$21,000 based on experience and education. Send resume to: Bill Haynes, HB 82 Box 202, Violet Hill, AR 72584.

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Eugene Ryan, recently retired pastor of Scotland Baptist Church, will be available for Supply - Interim - Revivals.
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MISSIONARY NOTES

Milton and Nannette Lites have transferred to Colombia and are in language study (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos, San Jose, Costa Rica). He was born near Garland. The former Nannette Webb, she was born near Dyess and grew up in Wilson. They were appointed in 1969.

James and Marci Miller, missionaries to Ecuador, have arrived at language school (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos, San Jose, Costa Rica). He considers Bryant his hometown. The former Marci Lifer, she was born in Forrest City. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1994.

Carroll and Jackie Shaw, missionaries to Southern Africa, are in the States (address: 612 Asbury, Little Rock, AR 72211). Both are natives of Texas. She is the former Jacquelyn Hall. They were appointed in 1959.

Ted and Mary Stanton, missionaries to Argentina, are in the States (address: 15 Brookview, Little Rock, AR 72209). He was born in Arkadelphia and grew up in Little Rock. The former Mary Ridgell, she was born in Prescott and grew up in Little Rock. They were appointed in 1976.

Michael and Kathy Weaver, missionaries to Peru, are on the field (address: Apartado 3177, Lima, Peru). He is a native

of Missouri. The former Kathy Chandler of Arkansas, she was born in Heber Springs and considers Fordyce her hometown. They were appointed in 1993.

Charles and Nancy Browning, Baptist representatives to Jordan, are on the field (address: Box 1, Ajloun, Jordan). He is from Judsonia, and she is the former Nancy Woodward of Lonoke. They were appointed in 1983.

Truman and Carol Chatman, missionaries to Uruguay, are on the field (address: Casilla 35, Melo, Uruguay). He is a native of Missouri. The former Carol Hill, she was born in Walnut Ridge and consider Imboden her hometown. They were appointed in 1984.

Stephen and Kathy Dewbre, missionaries to Southern Africa, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 784, Umtata, 5100 South Africa). He considers North Little Rock his hometown. She is the former Kathy Thye of Iowa. They were appointed in 1989.

Ernest and Norma Whitten, missionaries to Ecuador, are in the States (address: 2623 East 13th Place, Tulsa, OK 74104). He was born in McCaskill and considers Hope his hometown. She is the former Norma Willis of Tulsa. They were appointed in 1990.

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Convention Uniform

Evidences of resurrection

By Rich Kincl, pastor,
Central Church, Magnolia
Basic passage: Luke 24:1-11,
I Corinthians 15

Focal passage: Luke 24:44-49, 52-53,
I Corinthians 15:57-58

Central truth: The certainty of Jesus' resurrection and His commission challenge Christians to share the gospel with every person.

It is not possible to be a Christian and not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved" (Rom. 10:9).

Just as the heart pumps life-giving blood to every part of the body, so the truth of the resurrection gives life to every truth Christ taught.

The personal appearances of Jesus following His resurrection provide convincing assurance of His resurrection. Truth is assumed to be established when two or more people agree to the facts of a statement or an event. In addition to the women who discovered the empty tomb and the testimony of the two from Emmaus, Jesus appeared to a gathering of His disciples on the evening of the resurrection. He appeared to them on other occasions, also.

Jesus appealed to three evidences of His bodily resurrection: the marks of the crucifixion (v. 39a); the touch of His flesh and skeletal frame (v. 39b); and the witness of Jesus eating food (v. 43).

■ As followers of Christ, we are to bear witness to the resurrection (vv. 44-49).

God's plan is for all to be rightly related to Him. Our task is to proclaim the need for repentance and the availability of forgiveness of sin. Jesus did more than give us a job to do; He gave us the power to do the job (v. 49; I Cor. 15:57-58).

■ Worship and obedience are two responses to the truth of the resurrection (vv. 52-53).

When the disciples returned joyfully to Jerusalem, they went to the temple and praised God. We should continually seek His presence as we praise Him in our daily lives and worship together in our churches.

Life and Work

The resurrection of Christ

By R. Wilbur Herring,
pastor emeritus,
Central Church, Jonesboro
Basic passage: Mark 15:42-16:8
Focal passage: Mark 15:42-16:8

Central truth: The resurrection of Christ is certain.

To fully enjoy the victory of the resurrection we must be certain of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

■ The Certainty of His Death

Jesus hung on the cross from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. At His death, the centurion said, "Truly, this man was the Son of God." Later a soldier ran a spear through Him which made certain of His death. Soldiers came to make sure that the two thieves and Jesus were dead by breaking their legs. Jesus, however, was found to be dead, so His legs were not broken.

■ The Certainty of His Burial

Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. After Pilate was assured that Jesus was dead, he granted the request. Joseph wrapped the body of Jesus in fine linen and buried Him in a tomb hewn out of a rock. From the Gospels, we learn that a huge stone was rolled over the entrance of the tomb and a Roman seal was placed over the tomb, defying anyone to break it. Soldiers were then placed to guard it. Jesus was dead and Jesus was buried.

■ The Certainty of His Resurrection

The day after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome came to the tomb with sweet spices to anoint the body of Christ. They wondered who would roll away the heavy stone, but when they reached the tomb the stone had already been rolled away. On entering the tomb they saw a young man clothed in a long white garment. Verse 6 is the key verse in which the young man told them that Jesus was risen. Then he told the women to go and tell the disciples that Jesus would meet them in Galilee. Jesus, who had been crucified and buried, had now been raised from the dead.

The Lord Jesus Christ is alive and will keep all of His promises to us, His disciples. What a joy! What a comfort! What a victory is ours!

Bible Book

He has risen—remember!

By Greg Stanley, pastor,
First Church, Warren
Basic passage: Luke 24:1-53
Focal passage: Luke 24:1-12, 28-31,
45-49

Central truth: Christ rose from the dead to live personally in our lives from day to day.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a wonderful, historic fact, foundational to our faith. It is the seal of God's salvation of lost mankind. More important to believers is its continuing value in our daily lives. Luke's gospel record of Jesus' followers discovering His resurrection and His post-resurrection ministry to them holds several key truths for us to remember today.

■ Remember His words. When the women heard from the angels the gospel tidings of Jesus' sacrificial death and glorious resurrection, "then they remembered His words" (v. 8). In the Scriptures, we have the continual presence and ministry of "His words." Jesus has provided His indwelling Holy Spirit to provide ongoing interpretation and application to our daily lives.

■ Remember the wonder. The women's unbelievable news sounded like "non-sense" to the apostles, and even Peter's hasty trip to the empty tomb left him "wondering to himself" (vv. 9-12). How often do we lose the wonder that the Creator of the universe came to die for our sins? Do we take for granted that He rose to live forever and chooses to live right within my life and yours?

■ Remember Jesus' presence in the everyday affairs of life. As two followers conversed with the risen Christ walking to Emmaus, they failed to recognize Him despite His "heart-warming" words. Only when He gave thanks and broke bread for them were "their eyes opened and they recognized Him" (vv. 28-31).

Could Christ be seeking to get our attention in mundane happenings around us? Do we miss joining Him in ministry when we pass up those to whom we should render service?

■ Remember the witness. Luke's gospel closes, as do the other three, with Jesus' commission to His followers to share the good news of salvation through His death and resurrection "to all nations" (vv. 45-49). Of all the truths of that first Easter, this is the most crucial that we dare not forget. A lost world still waits for Jesus' followers to remember to share good news!

Convention Uniform

Freedom demands love

By Rich L. Kincl, pastor,
Central Church, Magnolia
Basic passage: I Corinthians 8
Focal passage: I Corinthians 8:1-3, 9,
11-13
Central truth: Christian liberty is not
the freedom to sin and excuses
anything that may lead others to
sin.

The issue is love. Do I love my Christian brother enough to consider his spiritual welfare?

The Greeks and Romans were polytheistic, worshipping many gods. They had a god for every circumstance, need and activity of any consequence. Food offerings were symbolically presented in worship to an idol god (v. 1). The particular issue was eating meat offered in the sacrifices.

■ Avoid extremism (vv. 1-3).

Many Gentile believers refused to buy such meat because it brought back memories of their previous pagan lives. Some Jewish Christians did not eat because of the Jewish dietary laws.

Other Christians were not bothered. Meat was meat and pagan deities did not exist anyway. They were mature, well-grounded and had a clear conscience.

Be careful of spiritual legalism where everything is black or white. Legalists live by rules and not the Spirit. Everything is classified as good or bad, whether the Bible mentions it or not.

Spiritual license has very little black. Almost everything is acceptable as long as it is not strictly forbidden in Scripture. As long as your conscience is free, you can do as you please. (Paul addressed this group.)

■ Let love be your guide (v. 9).

Paul taught that it is wrong to offend the conscience of fellow believers when they are less mature ("weak") and when what we are doing is not necessary in our service to the Lord.

He challenged the believers who are solid in doctrine but weak in love. Love is the key to behavior. Knowing what is not forbidden is not enough.

■ A Christian checklist (vv. 11-13):

Ask yourself before participating in doubtful behavior:

Am I setting the right example, especially for a weaker brother?

Is my testimony going to be helped or hindered?

Will this help me grow spiritually?

What would Jesus do?

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Life and Work

The Spirit and missions

By R. Wilbur Herring,
pastor emeritus,
Central Church, Jonesboro
Basic passage: Acts 13 and 14
Focal passage: Acts 13:1-13
Central truth: Send forth
missionaries

It is a thrilling experience to be a member of a church which is alert to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The church at Antioch was just such a church and this resulted in the church becoming the "mother of foreign missions." There are several factors that took place in this original movement that we should study and observe today.

■ The leadership of the church should lead the church to fast and pray to seek the will of the Lord and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

■ We should be submissive in doing what the Holy Spirit directs us to do. We should do nothing of our own understanding in any given matter. We certainly ought not to undertake a program merely because some other church did it and seemingly had success.

■ The Holy Spirit calls, sets apart and sends certain Christians to go forth to proclaim the gospel of Christ. The church, every church, should be a "sending agency" for those whom the Holy Spirit has chosen.

■ These "sent ones" are assured of success. They will overcome opposition, win many to the Lord, establish churches and return rejoicing over the works of God.

■ Every church should not only send money for missions, but send missionaries who have been chosen of God. It is our work. It is our thrilling challenge to extend the Kingdom of God.

■ How does this lesson apply to you personally? Note verse 2. After they had prayed and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." God had a special work for Barnabas and Paul, and it must be remembered that God has a plan for every man and a man for every plan. God has a special work for you. When you find that work and do it well, you will then be a maximum value to God, to your fellow man and to yourself.

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Bible Book

Seeing is believing

By Greg Stanley, pastor,
First Church, Warren
Basic passage: Mark 2:1-3:6
Focal passage: Mark 2:1-12
Central truth: Jesus meets the
deepest needs of our lives in
response to our faith.

"Seeing is believing" is a way of saying that what we see with our own eyes must be truth upon which we can rely. As Mark recorded the beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry, an incident is related in vivid detail in chapter 2. We can easily visualize the physical and spiritual healing ministry of Jesus. We can also "see" certain spiritual truths from this account.

■ The four friends saw the stir created by Jesus. They observed the crowds, heard the teaching and brought their disabled friend to the Great Physician. What are we doing to "create a stir" that draws people to our Savior? We must demonstrate the reality of Jesus' presence in our lives so that people are drawn to our source of life and hope.

■ Jesus saw their faith. This is an interesting expression. Just how does one "see" faith? Jesus saw the faith of the four friends in their actions. It was no small task to carry a helpless man not only to the house, but up onto the flat roof. Then they had to dig a hole through the roof and lower the man's pallet to where Jesus was. The thronging crowd could have been a barrier to keep them from Jesus. Jesus realized they meant business.

By our words and actions, do we demonstrate to the Lord and others that we are serious about our faith? Do we pray halfheartedly, as if we hardly expect an answer? Do we say we care for the lost, yet do little to introduce them to the gospel?

■ The invalid saw a miracle. The paralyzed man received more than he had expected from Jesus. First, he received forgiveness and release from the crippling power of sin. To validate the miracle's reality, Jesus enabled him to walk. The greatest miracle of all is still a soul set free by the regenerating power of Jesus Christ. We can be a part of making this miracle happen as we witness to His love daily.

■ Everyone saw a new authority and power. "Everyone," believer, curious and skeptic alike, was "amazed," and "praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'" Pray that God's amazing authority and power may bring revival to His body today.

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NEWS DIGEST

Graham's 'Global Mission' offers worldwide invitation

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO (BGEA)—Evangelist Billy Graham completed Global Mission, the most extraordinary mission of his ministry spanning more than 50 years, as he shared the reality of a personal God with a global audience, from a baseball stadium in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The evangelist became the first person in history to offer a global invitation, urging a worldwide audience of more than one billion people to come forward and make a faith commitment to Christ during the largest outreach in the history of the Christian church.

Speaking from the Hiram Birthorn Stadium in San Juan, Graham conducted a local crusade, March 14-18. Crowds as high as 55,000 — more than triple capacity for the facility — broke attendance records, with thousands more standing outside the gates or snarled in traffic.

Through Global Mission, March 16-18, three of the meetings were interpreted into 116 languages and extended by satellite to 3,000 mission locations in 185 countries, attended each night by more than 10 million people. More than one billion people will hear Graham's message on the cross of Christ to be broadcast the week of Easter on national television networks in 117 countries.

Southern Baptist mission couple murdered in Russia

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—A Southern Baptist physician and his wife have been murdered in Khabarovsk, Russia, where they have worked on medical projects since 1993.

Local police found the bodies of Chu Hon Yi, 60, and his wife, Kei Wol, 59, after entering the couples' apartment March 28 at the request of a concerned friend who hadn't seen them for several days.

Yi had sustained several blows to his head. Mrs. Yi had been strangled. There were no signs of forced entry, and the apartment's front door was locked when police arrived. Police estimate the deaths occurred March 23.

Yi, a retired cardiologist from Virginia Beach, Va., had worked with his wife, a registered nurse, at Khabarovsk Medical Institute. He practiced medicine and taught medical personnel there, working through Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

Southwestern dean Corley resigns, joins Truett faculty

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—Bruce Corley, dean of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's school of theology, announced March 21 his resignation to join the faculty of Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary. He will serve as professor of Christian scriptures, beginning in June.

Corley, dean since 1990 and a Southwestern faculty member for 19 years, emphasized the move was "not reactionary" but admitted rumors and speculation about his role at the seminary have been running rampant since the dismissal of Russell Dilday as president in March 1994. Dilday, a faculty member of Truett Seminary, recently has been named interim dean of that institution.

"I'm going in view of a call to Baylor. If it were reactionary, I would have made the move much earlier," Corley stated. "I viewed the firing as a tragic event, but it did not make my decision for me because I am committed to theological education."

Corley said the recent election of Robert Sloan as Baylor president "is much more a factor." Noting that he and Sloan "have been friends for more than 15 years," Corley added that Sloan's election "signals the commitment of Baylor University to Baptist distinctives."

Missionary journalist chosen as Florida paper editor

JACKSONVILLE, FL (BP)—Members of the *Florida Baptist Witness* Commission have unanimously elected Southern Baptist missionary journalist Michael Chute as the publication's next editor.

Chute, 44, served 12 years as a Foreign Mission Board overseas correspondent, first in Brazil and then in Hong Kong, where he reported on Southern Baptist missions work in Asia and the Pacific Rim. He is currently on leave from the FMB to complete requirements for his doctorate in mass communications and is assistant professor of journalism at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. He formerly was managing editor of Missouri's *Word & Way*.

Chute succeeds Jack Brymer, who "resigned in the face of unrelenting organized attempts by a small number of persons to impose censorship of coverage of news about Baptist activities," noted commission chairman Lance Anderson. He added, however, that the commission as a whole has a "history of support" for its editors and will support Chute.